

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 5, 1874, with transcript

Home, April 5th, 74. (Enclosed with letter of E.G.B. April 4, 74.) My dear Al.,

I sent you Mr. Nevin's letter to Mr. Murrey, the Missionary in China. I have deferred writing to Mr. Nevin until I could say that you had received his letter and so forth. Have you not got it? A better arrangement of your time would certainly enable you to write more regularly and fully. Charlie's letter should have been answered or in some way acknowledged. Davies is terribly bothered about Home, who has left Dublin in debt to his tradesmen. Ellen seems now to be desirous to move to Canada. This has made me offer them our place for a year. If they accapt, I shall pack a portmanteau and go on the tramp with a few lectures for the time. Mamma will enjoy such a holiday, and we should be able to see you also, for a week, for a portion of our stay in the East. With readings and lectures I think we should at least pay expenses. I fully expect that C. will be married in Oct., though I know that nothing is yet decided as to the time. The ground has been bare for some weeks, with occasional sprinklings of snow. The floods are over and the river is open. But we have had hard frost for the last week. The new bridge was opened yesterday.

I have ordered a variety of ornamental trees to plant all along by our forest fence; Norway Spruce, Lombardy Poplar, Mountain Ash, Locust and others; so that I hope you will find us improved in appearance in the Summer.

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We have also a new ice-house, well stocked for your comfort in the hot weather. Lay your plans to stay as long as possible and make your holidays complete rest from work this time. Love from all.

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Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.